THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (c) Ministry of Finance, Department of Revenue have informed that in terms of Section 44AB of the Income Tax Act, 1961, every person carrying a business, including cable operator, is required to get its accounts audited by an accountant before the specified date, if its total sales, turnovers, or gross receipts in business exceed Rs. 40 lakh in any previous year. Department of Revenue have informed that the total income accruing to the Government from various private cable television operators is not centrally maintained.

Hundred per cent Television Coverage

4152. SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether her Ministry has developed adequate capabilities (both technology-wise and infrastructure-wise) for bringing the entire population under television coverage as the Planning Commission has made this a condition to approve funds for the Tenth Five year Plan; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time-frame within which hundred per cent television coverage would be achieved?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) Prasar Bharati has the capability to set up the requisite facilities utilizing appropriate technology for providing TB coverage to the entire population of the country, subject to availability of requisite funds.

(b) In terrestrial mode, TV coverage is available to about 89.6% population of the country (including the population in rural and remote areas) and it is expected to become available to about 91.3% population, on commissioning of on-going transmitter projects. It is the constant endeavour of DD to provide TV coverage in uncovered areas for which alternative technology options have also been included in the 10th Plan. No time frame for achieving cent percent coverage can be indicated.

Ban on Pre and Exit Polls

4153. SHRI SUKHBIR SINGH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal with Government to ban pre and exit polls opinions as they unnecessarily influence the voters and create confusion among the people;

(b) whether any representations have been received by Government in this regard; and

(c) if so, the reaction of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (c) Pre and exit polls are a regular feature in democratic countries like the UK & USA. These are being held regularly and publicised. Election Commission of India had earlier laid down guidelines for publication and dissemination of results of opinion polls/exit polls in January, 1998 during General Election to Lok Sabha and certain Legislative Assemblies in 1998-99. However, these guidelines were withdrawn by Election Commission of India in September, 1999.

Coverage of AIR/DD

4154. Dr A.K. PATEL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the extent of coverage of AIR and Doordarshan in every State as on date;

(b) the year by which the entire country would be provided with hundred per cent coverage of AIR and Doordarshan; and

(c) the steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) Details of State-wise Doordarshan and All India Radio coverage are given at the Statement (*See* below).

(b) and (c) Doordarshan and All India Radio coverage is available in satellite mode throughout the country. In terrestrial mode, TV coverage is presently estimated to be available to about 89.6% population of the country (including the population in fringe areas) and in respect of All India Radio, it is estimated to be available to about 98.8% population. This is expected to increase to 91.3% in respect of Doordarshan and about 99.03% in respect of AIR on commissioning of the on-going transmitter projects. It will be the endeavour of the Government to provide adequate funds for further expansion of coverage during 10th plan. Alternative technology options have also been included to provide coverage to hitherto uncovered areas.